Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 9 and 18 are amended and claims 26 and 27 are added as set forth hereinafter.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1 to 8 (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) A spring comprising:

first and second rigid end members moveable relative to each other causing the distance therebetween to vary during operation of said spring;

an elastic spring body mounted between said end members;

said elastic spring body having a rotationally symmetrical cross section and a longitudinal section having biconvex shape;

said elastic spring body being a monolithic body of rubber or a rubber-like plastic and having a surface which is pressed with more or less area of said surface against said rigid end members as said distance ~~varies~~ becomes shorter or longer during said operation;

a first plurality of ribs arranged on said surface spaced one from the other at respective first distances;

a second plurality of ribs arranged on said surface spaced one from the other at respective second distances; [[and,]]

said second plurality of ribs intersecting said first plurality of ribs so as to form a multiplicity of intermediate spaces defining a corresponding plurality of polygonal areas or cavities on said surface wherein air collects to become trapped between said spring body and said rigid end members to form a plurality of air pillows as said rigid end members move toward each other so as to permit said elastic spring body to slide on said air ~~pillows~~ pillows;

said elastic spring body having a substantially U-shaped cavity formed therein so as to impart said biconvex shape to said elastic spring body when viewed in longitudinal section; and,

one of said rigid end members having an opening formed therein lying opposite said U-shaped cavity to permit said U-shaped cavity to communicate with the ambient.

10. (Previously Presented) The spring of claim 9, wherein a surface coating to facilitate sliding is provided on at least one of said elastic spring body, said first end member and said second end member.

11. (Previously Presented) The spring of claim 10, wherein said first plurality of ribs are mutually parallel and said second plurality of ribs are mutually parallel and intersect said first plurality of ribs orthogonally.

12. (Previously Presented) The spring of claim 11, wherein said first plurality of ribs are spaced approximately 10 mm one from the other; and, said second plurality of ribs are spaced

approximately 10 mm one from the other.

13. (Previously Presented) The spring of claim 12, wherein said ribs each have a height of approximately 2 mm.

14. (Previously Presented) The spring of claim 13, wherein said ribs are configured as wear or abrasion ribs.

15. (Previously Presented) The spring of claim 14, wherein said ribs are made of a material which differs from the material of said spring body.

16. (Previously Presented) The spring of claim 15, wherein said ribs have a surface to facilitate sliding.

17. (Previously Presented) The spring of claim 9, wherein the ribs of said first and second plurality of ribs all have the same height.

18. (Currently Amended) A spring comprising:

first and second rigid end members moveable relative to each other causing the distance therebetween to vary;

an elastic spring body mounted between said end members so as to act solely by itself as a spring between said rigid end members;

said elastic spring body having a rotationally symmetrical cross section and a longitudinal section having biconvex shape;

said elastic spring body having a surface and being a

monolithic body of rubber or a rubber-like plastic;

a first plurality of ribs arranged on said surface spaced one from the other at respective first distances and said first plurality of ribs having a predetermined height;

a second plurality of ribs arranged on said surface spaced one from the other at respective second distances and said second plurality of ribs having a height equal to said predetermined height; [[and,]]

said second plurality of ribs intersecting said first plurality of ribs so as to form a multiplicity of intermediate spaces defining a corresponding plurality of polygonal cavities on said surface wherein air collects to become trapped between said spring body and said rigid end members to form a plurality of air pillows as said rigid end members move toward each other so as to permit said elastic spring body to slide on said air ~~pillows~~ pillows;

said elastic spring body having a cavity formed therein so as to impart said biconvex shape to said elastic spring body when viewed in longitudinal section; and,

one of said rigid end members having an opening formed therein lying opposite said cavity to permit said cavity to communicate with the ambient.

19. (Previously Presented) The spring of claim 18, wherein a surface coating to facilitate sliding is provided on at least one of said elastic spring body, said first end member and said second end member.

20. (Previously Presented) The spring of claim 19, wherein said first plurality of ribs are mutually parallel and said second plurality of ribs are mutually parallel and intersect said first plurality of ribs orthogonally.

21. (Previously Presented) The spring of claim 20, wherein said first plurality of ribs are spaced approximately 10 mm one from the other; and, said second plurality of ribs are spaced approximately 10 mm one from the other.

22. (Previously Presented) The spring of claim 21, wherein said ribs each have a height of approximately 2 mm.

23. (Previously Presented) The spring of claim 22, wherein said ribs are configured as wear or abrasion ribs.

24. (Previously Presented) The spring of claim 23, wherein said ribs are made of a material which differs from the material of said spring body.

25. (Previously Presented) The spring of claim 24, wherein said ribs have a surface to facilitate sliding.

26. (New) The spring of claim 18, wherein said one rigid end member is a flat annular member defining said opening; and, the other one of said rigid end members is a flat disc-shaped member.

27. (New) The spring of claim 9, wherein said one rigid end

member is a flat annular member defining said opening; and, the other one of said rigid end members is a flat disc-shaped member.